

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Finland

DATE DISTR. 28 August 1952

SUBJECT Soviet Activity in the Porkkala Area

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF  
INFO. 25X1ANO. OF ENCL.  
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE  
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1. Soviet activity in the leased Porkkala area during June has been greater than in many years, and it is obvious that the fortification work is carried on with especial zeal. From all parts of the area the sound of air drills is heard, and explosions occur with increasing frequency; activity of this intensity has not existed since the area was first leased. As heretofore, the greatest attention is focused on the roads leading into the area. Inasmuch as the sound of drills cannot be silenced, camouflage precautions have been abandoned, and now a high wooden wall is being built around the area of activity. However, if, for example, the work involves excavating in an area where observation is possible from the Finnish side, the work is generally performed at night, and even then the workers exercise strict military precautions; they camouflage themselves with freshly cut branches, and each spadeful of earth that is removed is camouflaged to blend with the surrounding terrain. Special effort is apparently devoted to keeping the work secret.
2. The defense work undertaken this summer apparently involves considerable expense: over a broad area, the timber, or at least the underbrush, is being burned in order to provide a rifle range.
3. Emphasis appears to be concentrated on landing operations and repulsing attacks; a large maneuver of this kind was staged on 26 - 27 June. During the forenoon eight armored patrol motorboats left the leased area in formation and proceeded toward the direction of Tallinn. These boats were heavily armed, and had in both the bow and the stern a revolving turret, as well as several small cannon on the deck. At the same time, several motor torpedo boats arrived from the direction of Tallinn. After a short interval, an airplane, towing a target, appeared on the scene, and all the boats opened up a heavy fire, so concentrated that the plane was in obvious danger. During the day, two fuel oil barges were also towed to the area from the direction of Tallinn.
4. There was also heavy anti-aircraft firing on the Estonian coast during the entire day, with larger craft, such as destroyers and destroyer escorts, participating.

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5. The practice continued on the Finnish coast in the evening, at which time one group of vessels made a landing attempt on the Pikkala coast. The maneuver began about 2000 hours, when a gunboat spread a smoke screen on the west side of Obbnäs peninsula. Thereafter, heavy cannon firing commenced, and, judging by the sound, several craft - probably some of the units which earlier in the morning had participated in the anti-aircraft maneuvers at sea - approached the Pikkala Bay. The battle continued throughout the night and the following day, and singularly enough the smoke screen laid the night before remained effective throughout the entire period, although it was not observed to have been renewed. This screen was probably laid to prevent observation from the Finnish side, but it may also have served to mask the battery firing in the western sector of the area.

6. Taking part also in the maneuvers were two small airplanes, which merely observed the air operations and dropped slowly-falling flares by parachute.

7. The air activity otherwise has been below normal. Now and again a single flight is observed, but no jet planes have been seen, nor have any aircraft formations been observed.

8. Traffic to the leased area has been fairly active, but only a gradual increase over previous years is noted. Apropos the traffic by rail, transport of heavy timber products from Finland occurs daily; it consists mainly of long logs which are probably used in harbor construction. One train carried 147 trucks of three, four, and five-ton capacity.

9. The following figures give the numbers and types of railroad cars which entered the Porkkala area in June 1952:

<u>Locomotives</u>	<u>Freight Cars</u>	<u>Flat Cars</u>	<u>Passenger Cars</u>	<u>Oil Cars</u>	<u>Special Cars</u>	<u>Cars for Personnel</u>
82	376	553	100	1	29	17

10. The highway traffic has been slight: perhaps about ten automobile loads of diplomatic personnel from Helsinki arrived in the area to fish, but other traffic, that is, between Viipuri and Porkkala, consisted of five round-trip journeys by trucks. It is perhaps worthy of comment that no military personnel from the Embassy have been to the area in the past two years. However, Colonel Tserepov<sup>1</sup> and Lt. Col. Dupovits<sup>2</sup> made a fishing trip to the Inkoo Islands, at which time they stayed overnight in a Soviet-owned cottage located in a clearing on Stor-Låvö Island. Source states that the "fishing trip" may have had some other significance. The two men went to the island on the evening of 21 June and left the following morning.

11. Insofar as possible the sea traffic to the leased area is carried on secretly. Transport is by means of towing of barges, invariably escorted by several patrol motorboats. The barges vary considerably in size, but large barges, i.e. 60 to 100 meters in length, have been observed. The latter are usually towed by two tugboats, one on either side, and a speed of 12 to 14 knots may be attained. Proceeding at this speed, a scant two hours is consumed in the journey from Naissari, in USSR territorial waters, to Porkkala. Observation renders it relatively easy to determine when the sealanes are free of Finnish patrol craft, so that a crossing can readily be made unobserved. Various methods are used to conceal the transport occurring by water: for example, if a Finnish patrol vessel appears on the scene, the Soviets lay a smokescreen to conceal the barges, and this is kept up during the entire course of the journey. The armament on the vessels is kept uncovered during the trip, and the personnel are in readiness at their stations. On one occasion, a Finnish patrol craft attempted to overtake an escort of this type, but the gunners immediately directed their guns toward the Finnish vessel, which naturally abandoned its intention.

12. The Soviets announced that they would increase their border patrol during the Olympic

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games. However, from all indications, it appears that the Soviets might in short order return any individuals who could prove that they had crossed the border inadvertently.

25X1A Comment: 1 Probably Lt. Col. N. F. Cherepov, Assistant Military Attaché at [REDACTED] the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki.

2 Probably Lt. Col. B. N. Doubovich, Assistant Military Attaché at the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki.

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